

HTML Forms

An HTML form is used to collect user input. The user input is most often sent to a server for processing.

Example

First name:

Last name:

The `<form>` Element

The HTML `<form>` element is used to create an HTML form for user input:

```
<form>
```

.

form elements

.

```
</form>
```

The `<form>` element is a container for different types of input elements, such as: text fields, checkboxes, radio buttons, submit buttons, etc.

The `<input>` Element

The HTML `<input>` element is the most used form element.

An `<input>` element can be displayed in many ways, depending on the `type` attribute.

Here are some examples:

Type	Description
<code><input type="text"></code>	Displays a single-line text input field
<code><input type="radio"></code>	Displays a radio button (for selecting one of many choices)
<code><input type="checkbox"></code>	Displays a checkbox (for selecting zero or more of many choices)
<code><input type="submit"></code>	Displays a submit button (for submitting the form)
<code><input type="button"></code>	Displays a clickable button

Text Fields

The `<input type="text">` defines a single-line input field for text input.

A form with input fields for text:

```
<form>
  <label for="fname">First name:</label><br>
  <input type="text" id="fname" name="fname"><br>
  <label for="lname">Last name:</label><br>
  <input type="text" id="lname" name="lname">
</form>
```

This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:

First name:

Last name:

Note: The form itself is not visible. Also note that the default width of an input field is 20 characters.

The <label> Element

Notice the use of the <label> element in the example above.

The <label> tag defines a label for many form elements.

The <label> element is useful for screen-reader users, because the screen-reader will read out loud the label when the user focus on the input element.

The <label> element also help users who have difficulty clicking on very small regions (such as radio buttons or checkboxes) - because when the user clicks the text within the <label> element, it toggles the radio button/checkbox.

The **for** attribute of the <label> tag should be equal to the **id** attribute of the <input> element to bind them together.

Radio Buttons

The <input type="radio"> defines a radio button.

Radio buttons let a user select ONE of a limited number of choices.

Example

A form with radio buttons:

<p>Choose your favorite Web language:</p>

```
<form>
  <input type="radio" id="html" name="fav_language" value="HTML">
  <label for="html">HTML</label><br>
  <input type="radio" id="css" name="fav_language" value="CSS">
  <label for="css">CSS</label><br>
  <input type="radio" id="javascript" name="fav_language" value="JavaScript">
  <label for="javascript">JavaScript</label>
</form>
```

This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:

Choose your favorite Web language:

- ☐ HTML
- ☐ CSS
- ☐ JavaScript

Checkboxes

The <input type="checkbox"> defines a **checkbox**.

Checkboxes let a user select ZERO or MORE options of a limited number of choices.

Example

A form with checkboxes:

```
<form>
  <input type="checkbox" id="vehicle1" name="vehicle1" value="Bike">
  <label for="vehicle1"> I have a bike</label><br>
  <input type="checkbox" id="vehicle2" name="vehicle2" value="Car">
  <label for="vehicle2"> I have a car</label><br>
  <input type="checkbox" id="vehicle3" name="vehicle3" value="Boat">
  <label for="vehicle3"> I have a boat</label>
</form>
```

This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:

- ☐ I have a bike
- ☐ I have a car
- ☐ I have a boat

The Submit Button

The `<input type="submit">` defines a button for submitting the form data to a form-handler. The form-handler is typically a file on the server with a script for processing input data. The form-handler is specified in the form's `action` attribute.

Example

A form with a submit button:

```
<form action="/action_page.php">
  <label for="fname">First name:</label><br>
  <input type="text" id="fname" name="fname" value="John"><br>
  <label for="lname">Last name:</label><br>
  <input type="text" id="lname" name="lname" value="Doe"><br><br>
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```

This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:

First name:

Last name:

The Name Attribute for <input>

Notice that each input field must have a `name` attribute to be submitted.

If the `name` attribute is omitted, the value of the input field will not be sent at all.

Example

This example will not submit the value of the "First name" input field:

```
<form action="/action_page.php">
  <label for="fname">First name:</label><br>
  <input type="text" id="fname" value="John"><br><br>
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```

Exercise:

In the form below, add an input field with the type "button" and the value "OK".

```
<form>
```

```
<input type="text" value=" " />
```

```
</form>
```